

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 080972 TOSEC 030068
ORIGIN NODS-00

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S E C R E T STATE 080972 TOSEC 030068

EXDIS DISTRIBUTE AS NODIS

FOL RPT BEIRUT 1724 ACTION SECSTATE INFO WHITE HOUSE USUN NY
TEL AVIV JERUSALEM 29 MAR 78 QUOTE

S E C R E T BEIRUT 1724

EXDIS TREAT AS NODIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: MOPS, PLO, LE
SUBJECT: JONAH ON UNIFIL MANDATE

REF: STATE 079904

1. JONAH HAS RETURNED TO JERUSALEM. SINCE JONAH'S VIEW ABOUT BODY SEARCH WAS SHARED BY OTHER UN OFFICERS IN BEIRUT AND HE WAS VERY ANTSY ABOUT WHAT HE SAID TO US GETTING BACK TO UNNY, SUGGEST THAT BEST WAY TO APPROACH THIS QUESTION WOULD BE FOR USUN TO RAISE WITH UN SECRETARIAT WHOLE QUESTION OF UNIFIL MANDATE.

2. OTHER QUESTIONS WHICH MIGHT BE POSED INCLUDE: (A)

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ARMAMENT. WHAT IS LEVEL OF ARMAMENT UNIFIL WILL HAVE?
IT IS BOOTLESS TO TALK ABOUT UNIFIL CONTROLLING MOVEMENT IF IT IS NOT PERMITTED TO USE HEAVIER ARAMENT THAN IT NOW HAS.
THEY WILL BE BADLY OUTGUNNED BY PALESTINIANS IN ANY EVENT,
BECAUSE LATTER HAVE ARTILLERY AND ROCKETS. (B) COMBAT ROLE.
TALK OF SENSORS ALONG LITANI IMPLIES UNIFIL MIGHT BE EXPECTED TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT INFILTRATOR SPOTTED A

KILOMETER AWAY AT 2/00 A.M. IF SO, JUST HOW DO WE SUPPOSE THEY ARE GOING TO DO THAT? SEND OUT A PATROL? ARMED WITH WHAT? IT IS HARD TO VISUALIZE EITHER UNIFIL OR LEBANESE ARMY UNDER-TAKING SORT OF ROUGH WORK IMPLIED BY SUCH A CONCEPT.

(C) ERSKINE'S WHEREABOUTS. IF ERSKINE IS GOING TO COMMAND UNIFIL HE OUGHT TO INSTALL HIMSELF IN BEIRUT OR ELSEWHERE IN LEBANESE TERRITORY AND STOP FLITTING BACK AND FORTH TO JERUSALEM. THERE IS A SERIOUS COORDINATION PROBLEM THAT CANNOT BE SOLVED BY REMOTE CONTROL FROM GOVERNMENT HOUSE.

(D) MISSION. DOES UN AGREE WITH ARAFAT THAT UNIFIL'S ROLE IS TO RELIEVE ISRAELIS, OR DOES IT THINK IT WILL CONTROL PALESTINIANS? IF LATTER IS THE CASE, SOMETHING SHOULD BE DONE ABOUT SPELLING OUT MANDATE MORE CLEARLY.

PARKER

UNQUOTE COOPER

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NNN

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